

Application No.: 10/774,264
Amendment dated March 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2005

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments, and consideration of the application, as amended.

By this Amendment, the Applicant simply amended paragraph 0001 of the as-filed specification to insert the filing date and serial number of the related application.

By this Amendment, the Applicant also canceled claims 15-22, 26-28, 41, and 43 and introduced new claims 44-53. Claims 24, 25, and 40 were amended to correct typographical errors. No claims were narrowed by these amendments and no new matter was introduced.

Claims 1-14, 23-25, 29-40, 42, and 44-53 are now pending in this application.

In the above-referenced Office Action, the Patent Office claimed that the inventions recited in the following groups of claims are distinct:

- I. Claims 1-14, 23-25, 29-40, and 42 drawn to "an arrangement [and a device] for connecting decorative ornaments'; and
- II. Claims 15-22, 24-28, 41, and 43 drawn to "a method of assembly."

The Patent Office then requested that the Applicant restrict examination to one of these inventions at this time.

The Applicant traverses this restriction on the basis that these inventions are not distinct and thus should not be subject to restriction. However, to comply with the Office Action, the Applicant elects the invention of claims 1-14, 23-25, 29-40, and 42 for prosecution at this time. New claims 44-53 are dependent upon claims 1 and 42. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue protection of the inventions recited in the cancelled claims in, for example, one or more divisional applications at a later time.

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The Applicant believes that this Amendment addresses the Restriction of the subject Office Action and places the application in condition for allowance.

Evidence of Commercial Success

In support of the present application, the Applicant submits a recent publication illustrating the commercial success of aspects of the invention. In a brief article entitled "Saudis put on a show for terror summit" that appeared on the on-line periodical "telegraph.co.uk", a copy of which is attached to this Response, very large chandeliers provided by the Applicant and having aspects of the present invention are illustrated. The article discusses the recent Saudi counter terrorism conference held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on February 7, 2005. Included with the article is a picture of the convention hall showing several chandeliers.

The scale of the chandelier installation cannot be appreciated from the photograph provided in the article. The convention hall shown in the picture is a single uninterrupted space about the size of a football field. For the sake of illustration, the picture in the article has been enlarged, marked up, and attached to this Response. The chandelier in the central dome, identified as A in the enlargement, is 6 meters (about 20 feet) in diameter. Three 5.4 meter (about 18 feet) diameter chandeliers (B in the enlargement) also provided by the Applicant are also illustrated. Also, towards the corners of the convention hall two 2.5 meter (about 8 feet) diameter chandeliers (C in the enlargement) are shown.

Due to large size of these chandeliers the ornament chains withstand considerable weight. For example, the central chandelier (A) weighs over 8000 lbs. However, by employing ornament chain connecting arrangements according to aspects of the present invention, these chandeliers are capable of supporting this weight and thus make such large chandeliers possible.

An early and favorable action on the merits of this application is requested.

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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, the Applicant's undersigned Agent invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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